1: Holmberg--80 (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 784, 881, 834

"There are no puberty ceremonies for boys. Girls, however, are required to undergo certain rites before they are eligible for intercourse or marriage. Sexual intercourse with a girl who has not undergone these rites is strictly taboo and is believed to be followed automatically by a supernatural sanction of sickness and death."

"Unfortunately I never had an opportunity to witness the puberty ceremonies for girls, but after I had been wandering with the band of Ačíba-eóko in September and October, 1941, I was told upon returning to Tibaera that a number of young girls from the band of Eantándu were then in the forest undergoing these rites. I asked Eantándu to take me to where the ceremonies were being held, but he showed a great reluctance to do so, or even to suggest someone who might accompany me. He said that the rites were taboo and, besides, that he did not know where they were being held. I finally persuaded him, however, to suggest another Indian who agreed to accompany me. We set out in quest of the ceremonial party, but after walking about half a day, we met the participants returning.

From what information I could gather from informants—members of the party and the girls themselves—it seems that all young girls are subjected to these rites shortly before they are married. Menstruation is not a prerequisite for undergoing the ceremonies. Just what the prerequisites are I was never able to determine, beyond the fact that the girls must be of about puberty age. The ceremonies do not take place at any particular times or places. They are held whenever there are a few girls whose parents decide that they are of about the right age to be married.

The ceremonies are held near a water hole or stream about a day's journey from the house. Before proceeding to this site, the girls' heads are completely shaved with a bamboo knife. They are accompanied into the forest by their parents, and usually by a

few old men and women who are members of the extended family. Some hunters may go along to supply the party with game. Upon arriving at the water hole or stream, the men construct a raised platform of poles on which the girls are required to sit during the ceremonies, which last for about 2 or 3 days. During this time they are subjected to repeated baths to purify them for intercourse and marriage. They are also told what foods they can and cannot eat during the period following the rites and before marriage. Adult members of the party sing and dance a great deal during the ceremonies. After about 2 or 3 days of such activity, the party returns to the house."

1: Holmberg--80 [3] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 825, 881

"Following these rites in the forest, the girls are not immediately available for intercourse and marriage. They must wait until their hair has again grown to the length of their chins, which takes about a year. During this time they are subjected to the following food taboos. They cannot eat guan, macaw, monkey, curassow, toucan, anteater, coati, harpy eagle, parrot, paca, armadillo, opossum, porcupine, fox, and eggs of any kind. The reasons for not allowing them to eat these foods were never made clear to me except in the case of eggs, which are believed to cause multiple births, and porcupine and anteater, which are believed to cause the birth of clubfooted children. The following foods, however, are not taboo: all vegetable foods, fruits, fish, tortoise, peccary, tapir, deer, agouti, duck, alligator, cormorant, otter, and squirrel."

1: Holmberg--80 [4] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 582, 881, 883

"In addition to being subject to food taboos, adolescent girls, after they have undergone the ceremonies that take place in the forest but before they are eligible for marriage, must do considerable work for the first time in their lives. In many instances they have already been betrothed to potential husbands and therefore spend considerable time preparing themselves for marriage: carrying firewood, twining string, spinning thread, grinding maize, weaving baskets, making pots, and collecting food."

2: Holmberg--185 [2] (1941-42) 1946 Siriono
116, 585, 836, 881

"There is no taboo on sex relations between unmarried potential spouses, provided the women have undergone the rites of maturity. Virginity is not a virtue. Consequently, unmarried adults rarely, if ever, lack for sexual partners and frequently indulge in sex. In actual practice, sex relations between a man and his own brothers' wives, and between a woman and her own sisters' husbands, occur frequently and without censure, but intercourse with potential spouses more distantly related occurs less often and is apt to result in quarrels or lead to divorce."

2: Holmberg--188-189 (1941-42) 1946 Siriono
116, 839, 881

"Atypical sex behavior is also rare. I heard of no cases of rape, i.e., of intercourse with a girl who had not yet undergone the rites of puberty. When a man uses a certain amount of [189] force in seducing a potential spouse who has passed through the rites of puberty, this is not regarded as rape."